



this issue

Backup and Disaster Recovery P.1

Windows 7 Overtakes XP P.2

Tungle.me P.2

Upcoming Events
CT Lunch and
Learn

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Come join us for a Lunch and
Learn about the Technology
Trends for 2011 including:

- Making Sense of The Cloud
- New Ways to Protect Your Data
- Social Media Primer

Date: Wednesday, June 8th 2011

Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

To register:

Email - register@ctaccess.com

Call - 262-789-8210

Backup and Disaster Recovery



Scott
Hirschfeld


For years, the standard for backup in both small business and even in larger environments has been tape. In fact, as I look back over the last 20 years, we have been recommending tape backups since the beginning.

I am not sure if there is any other technology with such staying power, that is, until the last year or two. Due to some developing technologies, tape has become less the front-runner, and is beginning to take a back seat to other options. New options are generally built on some blend of offsite backup over the web and local storage

There have been a few technology developments that have led to this recent change. Bandwidth speeds to the Internet have changed dramatically. This makes the online backup option much more attractive, as it is easier to move large quantities of data over the wire to an offsite storage facility. In addition, bit level backup technologies have developed and improved to reduce the amount of data that has to be pushed across the Internet to update the backup at regular intervals. Compression technology has also improved. It allows us to shrink this same set of data, as it travels over the web.

It is important to keep in mind that while Internet based backups for business are good, a blended approach is better. Due to the large amounts of data that a business can generate, having all of your data backups stored in the cloud, can create a problem in restoring, particularly in the case of a larger loss of data. For instance, if your entire ERP database is corrupt, it could take many hours to just restore the data over the wire, let alone re-link the database and getting things operational again.

With this in mind, there are two newer backup options that I like. The first of these options is a BDR solution. BDR simply stands for Backup Disaster Recovery. This solution is a higher-end backup solution that offers more than just data recovery. It is a combination of an appliance or server, some sophisticated software, and an online data center. At regularly scheduled intervals, this unit will copy a backup of your servers to its internal storage and generate a virtual image of each server. It will then send all of the changes to your data offsite to a secure data center. This solution gives you immediate restoration of individual files, fast recovery of larger datasets, automatic offsite storage, and a business continuity solution in acting as a temporary server. If one of your servers fails, it will boot



up a virtual copy of your server and allow your operations to continue.

BDR solutions are available from a growing list of vendors. The pricing model differs with each vendor. Some require an upfront investment of several thousand dollars, and then a monthly fee for offsite storage. Some require just a monthly fee and the appliance hardware is included for that monthly fee. The real key is not necessarily in the pricing, but in the reliability of the backup vendor and their solution. Most of these solutions are proprietary, so if there is a problem, their support becomes very important. This makes choosing the right company essential.

The second backup option worth considering is a local/online/offsite solution. This solution does not offer the business continuity off the BDR, but it does offer most other benefits at a lower cost. With this solution, again, there is backup software and a data center. In addition, there is a local disk for a local

backup. This disk can be an inexpensive USB or a NAS storage location. The idea is to create an over-the-web, offsite backup, but first to store a copy locally. The local copy gives you all of the benefits of quickly restoring files and even larger datasets. The online backup to an Internet Data Center gives you the offsite capability which protects you against a bigger failure. It is the blending of online and local that makes this solution an effective business strategy.

One important key to taking advantage of these new offerings is to choose the right vendor for your solution. If there are issues in backup and recovery, help from their support is essential, as these are proprietary systems and there is very little you or your outsourced IT vendor can do without their assistance. So, be sure to choose a good vendor. For more information on these new backup options, please get in touch! You can reach me at scotth@ctaccess.com or 262-789-8210.

Cool Tools

Tungle.me

Everyone knows the headache of scheduling meetings with several people and trying to coordinate multiple schedules. Tungle is a scheduling service that syncs with your existing calendar. It connects with Outlook, Google Calendar, Apple iCal, Entourage for Mac, Lotus Notes, Blackberry Yahoo!, and Windows Live.

You can propose multiple meeting times with one or more people inside or outside your organization. You share your availability on a public page. Your calendar details are kept private. To see the details of your account you must login. You control the days and times shown as available on your page. Others only see free and busy blocks of time.

Tungle.me automatically updates your availability on your public page as your calendar changes. No more wasting time emailing back and forth with proposed dates and time.

Tungle.me will automatically adjust your proposed time to the time zone of the recipient. When people open your meeting invitation, Tungle.me simply adjusts the proposed time to their time zone.

Tungle.me apps are available for the Blackberry and iPhone, so you can send, receive and manage your meeting invitations on the go. Try it for free at www.tungle.me.

EYE ON IT Industry Trends

Windows 7 Overtakes XP in US Market Share

According to statistics from Statcounter, the top 4 Operating systems in the US as of April 11th are: Windows 7, Windows XP, Windows Vista and Mac OS X

Windows 7 has overtaken XP with 31.95 percent of market share for US desktops. Windows XP has second place with 31.41 percent. Vista follows with only 18.95 percent and Apple fans make up 14.87 percent of the market. Statistics are based on tracking visitors to more than 3 million websites in the month of April. Windows XP is still the global favorite with 46.86 percent of the market compared to 31.55 percent for Windows 7.